

## *City of Armagh High School*

Principal:

Mr C Douglas, BEng, PGCE, MEd

Vice Principal:

Mrs K P Mulholland, BSc (Hons), PGCE, PQH(NI)

1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I would like to firstly wish you and your family a Happy New Year and hope that as 2021 progresses that we begin to see some green shoots of recovery as a society. The Minister of Education has stated that the return to School in January will be altered as follows:

"Post-primary pupils will be taught remotely during the first week of January. From Monday 11 January pupils in years 8 to 11 will continue to be taught remotely until the end of January while pupils in years 12 to 14 will attend school for face-to-face teaching" further "Schools will accommodate vulnerable children and the children of key workers from the start of term" it is also the case that special schools will be open as normal.

### **Tuesday 5th January, provision for vulnerable / children of key workers and ASC / LSC provision.**

The Minister has allocated the first day of the new term to facilitate planning. Consequently, school will remain closed to all pupils on Tuesday 5th January. In order to inform planning for supervised learning of children who are identified as vulnerable the Pastoral and SEN teams will be in contact by telephone on Tuesday 5th January throughout the school day to parents. For parents who are key workers you are required to complete [this](#) survey by 10 am on Monday 4th January.

Please note a child of a keyworker is a child for whom a parent is a key worker with no other safe alternative.

The school will make contact with all parents via text message requesting support via the survey not later than Tuesday 5th January at midday to inform if a supervised learning place has been allocated. Any pupil who will be accessing supervised learning will require the use of a device to access the online content that teachers will have provided. Dependent upon uptake we may not be able to provide all pupils with IT access continually.

All pupils accessing supervised learning should wear school uniform as normal. At the outset PE will not be provided as part of the supervised learning offer, if this changes we will inform pupils in advance accordingly. Parents and carers should be aware that supervised learning is not face-to-face teaching; this is being supervised in the school building, doing the same activities as pupils who are at home.

Our ASC / LSC provision will run as normal therefore it is anticipated that all ASC / LSC pupils will be in school on Wednesday 6th January and report to their bubble. All other pupils who

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have had a place confirmed by the school should report to their year group bubble / learning zone as normal, morning registration will be extended into lesson 1.

### **Monday 11th January onwards**

All year 12 pupils are expected to return to school on Monday 11th January for face-to-face teaching and they should report to their year group learning zone as normal. Lessons will run as normal for year 12 and going forward public exams will take place compliant with public health guidance. All year 8 - 11 pupils will continue to be taught remotely until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January as per current guidelines.

All year 12 pupils should wear school uniform as normal and school PE kit on days when PE is timetabled.

### **Southern Regional College**

There will be no Occupational Studies provision in the week commencing 4th January therefore pupils should undertake home study. When further information is made available regards week commencing 11th January we will of course inform pupils and parents accordingly.

### **COVID safety**

In addition to the adjusted return arrangements, further improvements to school mitigations will be taken forward as indicated in the Minister's statement to the Assembly on 21st December including: face coverings being required in all post primary settings, including the classroom, improved signage and stronger public messaging. We therefore require, as in the Autumn term, all pupils to come to school equipped with a face covering unless exempt. When further guidance is issued regards the wearing of face coverings in classrooms we will support pupils accordingly.

Prior to any return to school please do continue to be cautious, as per normal procedures if your child feels unwell do not send them to school. If they display defined symptoms of COVID **do not** send them to school and ensure that a test is booked and continue to follow all advice and guidance of the Public Health Agency. We ask that you continue to keep us informed by contacting the school.

### **Free School Meals and meals catering for supervised learning**

A payment will be made to the parent / carer of all children entitled to free school meals for the week of 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> January. The payment will be made into the nominated bank account week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January. If EA does not have a nominated bank account a cheque will be issued.

For children in years 8, 9, 10 or 11 who are learning remotely a second payment will be made covering 11<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January. A date for this payment will be confirmed. At the time of writing we understand that the same applies to children who will be in attendance at school however we will work with EA catering regards facilities.

All pupils attending for supervised learning and LSC / ASC pupils should bring a packed lunch with them in the week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> January. Canteen facilities will be provided from 11<sup>th</sup> January onwards.

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### **Remote learning provision**

The learning and teaching team have continued to work with all staff and pupils to develop online learning provision. As a school we make use of many applications including but not limited to:

- Microsoft Teams
- Microsoft OneNote
- Hegarty Maths

Pupils and staff have been making use of many applications in lessons and for home learning since September 2020. Work will be provided by teachers to ensure pupils can continue to progress in their learning. It is expected that all pupils engage with work set and should any support be required contact should be made with the relevant class teacher; it is our aim that teachers will be available during allocated lesson times though they will also have commitments related to supervised learning support. The information hub on our website provides a wealth of information to support access to our online platforms and can be found [here](#). It is our ambition to continue to provide more interactive experiences in the coming weeks. The school will be monitoring pupil engagement and where there are concerns regarding lack of engagement contact will be made by the form tutor in the first instance to support.

**As we become more reliant upon online learning all pupils and parents should review our acceptable use and blended learning policies these are available [here](#)**

I wish to thank all parents, carers and pupils for their understanding and support going forward in what remains a challenging arena for education. Please do keep an eye on our information hub and Facebook for further updates.

Yours sincerely,

C Douglas

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